

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 18, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We commend your choice of Canada as your first foreign destination as President of the United States. Without question, Canada is a critical ally. As our largest trading partner, Canada is also our leading supplier of energy, and is committed to sharing its growing energy production with us. We write to ask that you recognize the energy contributions of Canada to North America's energy security in your upcoming trip by putting to rest the threats to their energy production that currently exist in US policies. Chief among these is the implied threat of Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Section 526 might stop any agency of the federal government from signing contracts to use Canada's oil sands, if misinterpreted by executive agencies. Canada currently has the 2nd largest proven reserves of oil in the world because of the development of its vast oil sands reserves. If U.S. government agencies were to misinterpret this provision, the practical effect would be a U.S. government preference for oil from the Middle East and Venezuela, rather than from our ally Canada.

At a time when the economies of both the U.S. and Canada are in distress, Canada's oil sands provide a bright spot for North American investment, job creation, and manufacturing. Refineries in the Midwest are currently spending billions of dollars in the private sector to employ tens of thousands of Americans to process this new source of secure energy from our friends to the north. Heavy equipment and steel makers in the U.S. benefit directly from the tens of billions of dollars of stimulus that investment in the oil sands developments have meant to our continent. These are good, sustainable, long term jobs that pay highly competitive wages with great benefits.

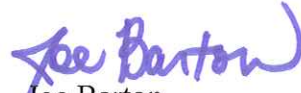
An improper decision on Section 526 and other pending decisions by your Administration could threaten all of these jobs, all of the energy security, and our future relations with our largest trading partner and neighbor. We ask that you seek to assure both Canadians and U.S. citizens in your upcoming trip that your Administration will not

take steps to harm this bright spot of our economy, our national security, or our energy security by making Canada's oil sands production more difficult.

Sincerely,



Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress



Joe Barton
Member of Congress



Henry Brown, Jr.
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress